

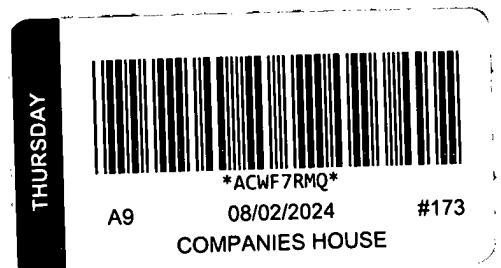
Companies House

**Prospect
Education
(Technology)
Trust
Limited**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 August 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number
02484729 (England and Wales)



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Reference and administrative information

Trustees	Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC A E Entwistle ^~ S A Harris ^ ~ P M R Gaze
Members	Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC A E Entwistle R D B Whitcutt
Executive Board	R D B Whitcutt^ (Chair) A E Entwistle^ ~ (Vice-Chair) D G Mitchell^ (Principal) T Bothwell^ (to 24 April 2023) R Branagan^ (to 4 October 2022) C Carli Nonnato (to 29 August 2022) K Chamberlain^ M Chiara Sechi (from 30 August 2022) T Chmielewski (from 30 August 2022) M D Collins (to 28 August 2023) P Edmondson M A Gallagher P J Hall S A Harris^~ J J Hetherington M Hughes (from 30 August 2022) C R Peterson R J Perry^ M T Smith
	~ = Members of the Remuneration Committee ^ = Members of the Finance and Resources Committee
Vice-Principal and Company Secretary	R J Perry

Reference and administrative information

Senior Leadership Team

D G Mitchell – Principal
R J Perry – Vice-Principal
J L Calvert – Deputy Principal
M D Collins – Assistant Principal (to 28 August 2023)
M A Gallagher – Deputy Principal
P J Hall – Deputy Principal
J J Hetherington – Assistant Principal
C R Peterson – Assistant Principal
M T Smith – Deputy Principal

Registered office

100 West Hill
Wandsworth
London
SW15 2UT

Company registration number 02484729 (England and Wales)

Auditor

Buzzacott LLP
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
117 Putney High Street
Putney
London
SW15 2LL

Solicitors

DMH Stallard LLP
Griffin House
135 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1DQ

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

The trustees who are directors of the Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited ('the Trust') for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 present their statutory report together with the financial statements and an auditor's report of the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The report has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and constitutes a directors' report for the purposes of company legislation.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies on pages 41 to 45 of the attached financial statements, and comply with the Trust's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006, the requirements of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trust has developed Ashcroft Technology Academy at 100 West Hill, London, SW15 2UT (the Academy). The Academy opened on 1 September 2007, having previously been known as ADT City Technology College which itself had operated since 4 September 1991.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no. 02484729) and is also an exempt charity. The Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association and its Funding Agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) are the primary governing documents of the Trust. Members of the Trust are nominated by either the Secretary of State for Education or by the Principal Sponsor. The articles of association require the members of the Trust to appoint at least three trustees to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the Trust and the management of the Academy.

The Trust was established to advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom by establishing, acquiring, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school or college offering a broad curriculum with a strong emphasis on technology and its principal applications.

In accordance with the articles of association, the Trust has adopted a "Scheme of Management" approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Management specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the Academy and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum with an emphasis on technology as referred to above.

Members' liability

Every member of the Trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Trust in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, by such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Trustees

A list of the persons who served as trustees of the Trust during the year and since the year-end is shown on page 1.

The Principal Sponsor may appoint up to five sponsor trustees (including himself) and the board of trustees may appoint three trustees. The Secretary of State may appoint additional trustees as he/she thinks fit, following due consultation with the trustees.

The full Board of Trustees meets annually and delegates responsibilities to the Executive Board (EB) and the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC); the EB and FRC each aim to meet at least five times a year, and in the year to 31 August 2023 both the EB and the FRC met on five occasions. Both the EB and FRC report directly to the trustees. During the year, one trustee served as a member of both the EB and FRC and one further trustee served as a member of the EB and as an observer on the FRC. Both were present at all five meetings of both the EB and the FRC.

The trustees are fully briefed on the deliberations of both the EB and FRC to whom they delegate day-to-day responsibilities. Aside from the Annual Meeting, the trustees played an active role in the original establishment of ADT City Technology College and its subsequent transition to Academy status in September 2007, contribute to, and approve, the annual report and financial statements and have established a Remuneration Committee comprising trustees at which they meet to sanction annual salary reviews for both the Academy's Principal and Vice-Principal, whilst setting parameters within which pay decisions are approved by the FRC for all other staff. They also provide input to and agree the Pay and Pensions Policy.

None of the trustees received any remuneration in respect of their services as trustees during the year, nor were any expenses reimbursed to the trustees in the year (2022 - none).

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for 2023 was £117 (2022: £112).

The Trust also insures against any losses of money or goods resulting from fraud or dishonesty by employees or trustees. The insurance provides cover up to £250,000 and the cost for 2023 was £131 (2022: £129).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Trustee training and induction

During the course of the year, there were no changes to the Board of Trustees, as all remained in post and, as such, no new induction arrangements were necessary throughout the year. Similarly, there was no movement in the Trustee membership of the EB during the course of the year. New members of the EB are provided with copies of the relevant Instruments of Government and Scheme of Management, together with three sets of previous minutes to enable them to familiarise themselves with current matters. They are also provided with a background introduction from the Chair of the EB and FRC as well as inputs from both the Principal and Vice-Principal, providing an overview of the workings of the EB and FRC and the Academy as a whole, before their first meeting. A tour of the Academy in operation is also offered. Aside from updates on relevant changes within the charity and education sector, which have an impact on academies, the trustees were kept apprised of key areas of focus and risk, such as governance, related-party transactions, the continuing use of data in monitoring the performance of the Academy and its students, changes to academic assessment, funding and staffing issues along with adjustments to how performance will be reported in future academic years. Similarly, both the EB and FRC received input on many of these issues, along with a number of presentations on curriculum matters at each meeting of the EB.

Organisational structure

The management of the Academy is as set out in the Scheme of Management adopted by the members of the Trust.

This prescribes that the trustees will be responsible for the overall operations and strategic development of the Academy, but that they may delegate responsibilities relating to the operational affairs and development of the Academy to the EB. In ensuring that the Trust's finances are properly administered and that books of account are maintained and duly audited at least annually, the trustees have also established the separate FRC with appropriate delegated authorities.

The Principal, who is also the Academy's designated Accounting Officer, and the Vice-Principal work closely on day-to-day matters of financial control. The trustees have decided not to appoint an internal auditor; however, they continue to appoint Mr S A Harris FCA, a trustee and member of the EB, as Responsible Officer (RO). The RO's role is fully defined and includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems. Since his appointment as a trustee, the RO work undertaken by Mr Harris is without charge to the Trust.

The RO has, once again, undertaken a number of physical checks this year having visited the Academy on four separate occasions throughout the academic year. He has also undertaken five observer attendances at FRC meetings during the year, culminating in a report to trustees. Throughout the course of his checks, the RO has not identified any material control issues.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Organisational structure (continued)

Subsidiary companies

The Trust has a wholly owned subsidiary called Prospect Educational and Public Services Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales with a Company Registration Number of 02559059. The principal activities of the subsidiary are to provide private lettings to the public through use of its premises at times when not in use by Academy, as well as the sale of uniform to Academy students. Surplus funds within the subsidiary at the year-end are paid to the Academy by way of charitable donation for furtherance of its objects. In the year to 31 August 2023, the subsidiary made a profit on ordinary activities before taxation and charitable donations of £97,270 (2022: £99,713) and as a result, donated under covenant £97,000 (2022: £99,700) to the Trust.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees, Executive Board and the Senior Leadership Team as listed on pages 1 and 2. A Remuneration Committee comprising two Trustees, receives input from the Chair of the EB and FRC on the performance of the Academy's Principal and Vice-Principal, as well as recommendations regarding their respective levels of pay and remuneration. The Committee meets to sanction annual salary reviews for the above whilst setting parameters within which pay decisions are approved by the FRC for all other staff, including other members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period	Full-time equivalent employee number
Two	Two

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	Two
1%-50%	Nil
51%-99%	Nil
100%	Nil

Connected organisations including related party relationships

Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Trust. Lord Ashcroft sponsored the development of Ashcroft Technology Academy and has maintained full involvement, interest and support through his role as Chair of Trustees since the founding days of ADT College to help ensure the Academy's on-going success.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, the provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academy faces, especially in the operational areas of teaching and learning activities, safeguarding, health and safety, bullying and Academy trips, as well as in relation to the Trust's finances and in fulfilling their responsibilities for appropriate estate management in terms of safety, upkeep and regulation. The Academy has introduced systems, including operational procedures for the thorough vetting of all new staff and visitors, controlled access and CCTV surveillance of Academy grounds and buildings and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk remains, the trustees have ensured that adequate insurance cover is in place. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial control and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The trustees receive yearly input concerning risk management via the updated risk register and continue to re-evaluate these risks on an annual basis. This continued to be supplemented in 2022-23 with the retention of several measures implemented initially as part of a specific COVID-19 focussed risk assessment, which had been subject to regular updates over the previous two academic years.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects, aims and objectives

The main activity of the Trust is the operation of the Academy to provide education for students from across the full range of abilities between the ages of 11 and 19 with an emphasis on technology.

To prepare young people for living, learning and working in the future, Ashcroft Technology Academy will:

- ◆ provide its students with a very well-resourced education for high quality learning;
- ◆ be characterised by a combination of high expectations and standards, innovative thinking and a broad commitment to supporting young people;
- ◆ focus on achieving high examination results, as well as promoting the personal and communication skills required to maximise employability;
- ◆ have genuine commitment to inclusion at the core of its ethos and values;
- ◆ have a business-like ethos underpinned by a belief in values and attitude such as hard work, honesty, integrity and respect for others;
- ◆ recognise the importance of working with and supporting a wider family of schools to improve education within the community; and
- ◆ have effective and innovative systems for employing, deploying and developing teaching and support staff.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for the year. The trustees consider that the Academy's aims are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Equal Opportunities policy

The trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The Academy aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued. Aside from its Equal Opportunities and Equal Opportunities in Employment policies, the Academy also has a separate Equality and Diversity Policy specifically covering equality on the grounds of race, gender and disability.

Disabled persons

As part of the Academy's policies on Equal Opportunities, its aim is to provide full access to its facilities by disabled persons. Electrical lift facilities and appropriate ramps serve all main areas of the Academy, making all areas accessible to disabled persons, with the lifts servicing the main teaching zones upgraded in the summer of 2023. Toilets for the disabled also exist across all areas of the Academy. A minibus with full disabled access has been purchased for transportation to and from Openview Sports Ground and other venues for sporting fixtures or other enrichment activities. The Academy also has enhanced facilities within the gymnasium area for supporting people with disabilities.

Such facilities have also been incorporated into the more recently developed accommodation for Performing Arts and the Sixth Form, ensuring that full disabled access across the Academy has been maintained. The refurbished science laboratories have incorporated height-adjustable workstations to ensure further provision in this area. The Academy has provided for a number of disabled students over the years and hopes that its facilities will encourage others who are challenged physically to apply to work at the Academy or accept a student place.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and performance

Ashcroft Technology Academy (the Academy) is an all-ability intake school with its admissions process based on a fair banding basis system. The Academy serves an area of Wandsworth with dense urban housing with 64% of students who have a first language that is not English and over 24% of students who qualify for free school meals - or have done so in the last six years.

In the academic year September 2021 to July 2022, the Academy received a full, section 5 Ofsted inspection on 21 and 22 September 2021, under the new, more rigorous inspection framework. The Academy had previously been exempt from routine inspection because it had been judged outstanding in February 2015. Once again, the Academy was graded Outstanding for overall effectiveness, with an outstanding grade across all five core areas of inspection.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

For 2022 to 2023, the Academy's GCSE performance ranked the Academy number 30 of over 5,000 maintained schools and academies in England, with a progress score of +1.09. Academy students, on average, achieve more than a whole grade better than they are predicted to achieve in their GCSE subjects (these predictions are based on historic school performance and Key Stage 2 data). Almost eight out of every ten Academy students who sit GCSE English and Maths pass both subjects. This is compared to a national figure of 5 students out of every ten. The numbers presented for the English Baccalaureate (EBACC) subjects place the Academy in the top 3 maintained non-selective schools nationally. The Academy goes to great lengths to make sure that all of its students, regardless of background or educational need, have access to and are able to achieve the government's gold standard curriculum.

The performance of the Academy's Pupil Premium students is also excellent. With a progress score of +0.94, students from the poorest backgrounds made outstanding progress. Each year, the progress measure for all pupil premium students nationally is approximately -1.40. Academy students therefore perform significantly better than students in other schools in England. In fact, the Academy is ranked number 21 of all schools nationally for Pupil Premium performance. Crucially, these results enable Academy students, regardless of their backgrounds, to access high quality university courses and apprenticeships, therefore greatly increasing their social mobility. The performance of students with additional needs (SEND) students was, once again, also very strong. Students at the Academy with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) also make excellent progress, with a progress score of +0.97 compared to -1.41 across the Borough of Wandsworth.

The Academy's International Baccalaureate (IB) students produced an excellent set of results this year, with the top performer achieving 43 points (out of 45 points). The average points score achieved by students this year was 38, which is above international averages and makes the Academy the top performing state school in the UK. This year's performance also places the Academy in direct competition with some of the top performing and highly selective independent schools. The Academy's A-Level performance also continues to be very strong. The results achieved this year mean that, based on externally assessed results, we are, for the eighth year running, the best performing sixth form in the Borough, with the average grade awarded to students a B+, and also the best performing state 6th Form in south London. In a highly competitive sixth form market, this accolade is meaningful for student recruitment.

The Academy continues to have a very low rate of fixed-term student exclusions, although an exclusion (fixed-term (suspension) or permanent) forms a vital part of our discipline policy. The fact that very few Academy students ever reach the stage where it is necessary to exclude is significant because it demonstrates that the Academy's internal processes work well. A very clear and robust behaviour policy exists – which is applied rigorously and in a consistent manner – as does a set of rules and sanctions which form part of a culture that promotes absolute inclusion for all students. The Academy's mentoring team in the Inclusive Care and Support facility (ICAS) work with students who present with behaviours that are inconsistent with our code of conduct; and time spent in ICAS, with mentors, allows students to correct their behaviour and therefore avoid more serious sanctions, whilst still completing the work they would otherwise be undertaking in their lessons.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Student attendance levels remain high. At 97.3%, we continue to be in the top 1% of state schools for attendance.

Staffing numbers have continued at a consistent level in recent years to enable the Academy to maintain the levels of service across all aspects of the school's life. Staffing efficiencies made in the year kept overall staffing numbers below that of the previous year. Efficiencies going forward will see little increase again during the academic year 2023 to 2024, despite the increase in numbers in the Academy's 6th Form. However, the Academy continues to be concerned over the numbers and the quality of those entering the teaching profession, and despite its continuing academic and reputational success and ability to recruit high quality staff in the past, recruitment is becoming considerably more difficult in most subject areas. Furthermore, the appointment of associate staff to non-teaching roles across a range of disciplines is also becoming extremely difficult to achieve.

Employment costs remain a key focus in the context of continuing tightening of budgetary allocations from the Department for Education (DfE). Nevertheless, the Academy remains committed to seeking ways of minimising the percentage of income allocated to staffing without savings impacting negatively on the quality of its curriculum delivery. This remains difficult; however, re-structuring management positions and designing a more efficient timetable has helped to reduce the proportion of DfE funding committed to staffing costs. The Academy remains very popular in the Borough and remains more than five times over-subscribed for places in Year 7. The Academy has started the 2023 to 2024 year with 1,501 students on roll, of which 295 students are in its sixth form and above the funded maximum for the first time.

Staff attendance continues to be excellent. Staff and student attendance levels have played a significant part in ensuring the successful outcomes in formal examinations this summer.

The Academy undertook an increased, but still relatively modest level of capital investment in the year. This was restricted to necessary upgrades made to the Academy's lifts, the installation of a new Astroturf and annual improvements to ICT resourcing.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future covering at least a period of 12 months from the date of the signing of the financial statements. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Principal Accounting Policies.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Key performance indicators

◆ **Financial**

◇ *Maximisation of funded student numbers*

Student numbers are key to the Trust's funding and in the year the Academy was funded for 1,138 students from Year 7 to Year 11 and 238 at sixth form (taken from the 2022 census), just 14 short of the Funding Agreement capacity. At sixth form, despite competition from a range of local providers, the Academy continues to be the best performing school within the local authority and works hard through both the results it achieves and the experiences it provides to maximise its numbers. The Trust remains cognisant that such popularity is based upon several key components incorporating results, course provision and reputation, a website that is relevant to this age group and opportunities to see the Academy in operation as part of the admissions process. The Trust increased its student intake numbers in Year 7 from 210 to 240 per year from 2019-20. This now provides a total of 150 additional funded students from the 2023 to 2024 academic year, with the last of the extended year groups admitted. Full funding for each enhanced cohort is received a year in arrears as future funding levels are based upon census returns from the previous year.

◇ *Staffing*

Professional, well-qualified, enthusiastic and committed staffing remains crucial to achieving success and the Trust has a policy of appointing all staff directly including its catering and cleaning staff. This also includes a significant pastoral support team within its ICAS facility, who continue to work with students who may not be achieving their full potential within a class-based setting to ensure their successful reintegration to lessons. This is the predominant area to which Pupil Premium funding is deployed. The staffing cost, excluding pension reserve movements, amounted to 84.5% of total revenue income for 2023 to 2024 and focus is placed on striking the right balance between effective staffing and its financial cost. Income levels over recent years have brought an increased strain on resources and as such, the percentage allocated on staff costs. The Trust is further aware that recruitment across the Academy continues to be challenging, although several identified and implemented efficiency savings reduced the percentage of income spent on staffing in the year.

◇ *Funding*

Aside from seeking to maximise funding through maintaining full student numbers, the Academy also aims to ensure value for money in the use of available income. Through the prudent use of funds, including key areas of centralised purchasing within the Academy, it has been able to plan ahead by carrying forward funds from one academic year to the next where possible, in order to fund identified improvements including capital related works as necessary to continue to both maintain and enhance building and equipment provision at the Academy.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Key performance indicators

♦ *Financial (continued)*

◊ *Funding (continued)*

The separate trading subsidiary provides for a gift aided donation each year and donations this year of £97,000 were gratefully received. This continues to be an area of focus in 2023 to 2024 as the Academy seeks to maximise usage of the Openview sports ground through other school users, whilst maintaining its use for other community users identified within its lease for the ground. These additional sources of income assist in the maintenance of unrestricted reserves to supplement the restricted funding provided through public funds and were used to fund the new Astroturf development on the main Academy site over the summer.

♦ *Other*

◊ *Ofsted*

The Academy was inspected in September 2021 and achieved a judgement of 'Outstanding' across all five core areas of inspection. This external inspection provides a significant indicator as to the effectiveness of operation and the Academy continues to operate effective systems and procedures, continually seeking to enhance these in order to maintain this inspection outcome.

◊ *Behaviour*

Underpinning the successful operation of the Academy and contributory to its outcome results is a clear expectation on student behaviour. The Academy's reputation in this area is widely known with expectations communicated from as early as the Open Evenings and Open Mornings for new student intake and then regularly rehearsed thereafter. Common courtesies and traditional values are basic requirements from both within and outside the classroom in order to minimise any disruption but, more importantly, to develop such qualities in students as preparation for adult life. The Academy firmly believes that excellent discipline actively contributes to examination success and the students' love of learning and ensures this remains a key operational priority.

◊ *Results at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5*

These are detailed earlier in the report but are essential to the overall accomplishment of the Academy. They help maintain popularity, from a parental, student and staff perspective. They also further endorse that the approaches taken by the Academy to each of its students' education are the right ones.

◊ *Student and staff levels of attendance*

Excellent attendance remains core to the success of the Academy and receives great focus as a result, with emphasis made both with students and staff and both its importance for them as individuals but also for the contribution high attendance across the Academy makes to student outcomes.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Key performance indicators

◆ *Other (continued)*

◇ *Staff development and training*

The Academy places much emphasis on the development of staff and ensuring its teaching staff are equipped with the latest pedagogical strategies to benefit lesson delivery and student learning. On top of the traditional staff development days, the Academy operates a weekly breakfast professional development programme for all teaching staff as well as having tailor made sessions for those new to the profession that mainly operate on Monday evenings. All these programmes are led by Academy staff.

Financial review

Financial report for the year

The majority of the Academy's revenue income is obtained from the DfE, through the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of General Annual Grants (GAG) and other revenue grants, the use of which are restricted to particular purposes for certain allocations. In recent years, the funding arrangements for all schools have been subject to a national funding formula to make school funding fairer, with funds being allocated and distributed based on a local authority-level formula, for local authorities to then apply their own specific formulae for school distribution. The main GAG funding provision known as age weighted pupil units (AWPU), increased by over 5.5% (largely through increased student numbers), while overall revenue funding levels from the DfE were up by more than 9% in total aided by other funding strands that are mentioned below.

Like many organisations, the Academy continues to face a more uncertain future in terms of funding over the medium term in light of inflationary and other cost pressures, making the current level of operation more difficult to sustain as a long-term objective. In response to this, the Academy has maintained a prudent approach to its staffing provision and other running costs whilst continuing to offer full provision and once again has successfully managed its budget over the past year. This prudence coupled with the maximisation of income has helped improve the longer-term outlook for the Academy's finances, although this has become more difficult to forecast with so many economic uncertainties at the present time.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Financial report for the year (continued)

Aside from GAG funds, the Academy receives several other ESFA grants. Most notably, the grant termed Pupil Premium (which is funding ascribed to support disadvantaged children), has been of major benefit to the Academy as just under a third of the Academy's student population up to Year 11 have been identified as those entitling the Academy to receive this funding. Entitlement is based on current free school meal numbers but also includes provision for those who have been entitled to free school meals at any point over the past six years but who may not necessarily still be entitled. Qualifying numbers have dropped over the years from a level of 44% when first introduced in 2013-14 to just 30% in 2022-23 as changes in credit entitlements for families in the past few years clearly indicate that those qualifying for free school meal entitlement have steadily reduced in number over the years. This has impacted on the amount of Pupil Premium funding the Academy receives, already lacking any uplift to reflect the higher costs of being an Inner London school. Equally, the funding per student has risen just 5% in nine years. Funding for the Academy in the 2022-23 year was £348,000 (2021-22 - £344,000). The grants received during 2022-23 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

The Academy continues a number of practices implemented during the Covid-19 crisis with building services staff continuing to ensure that supplies of anti-bacterial products were both purchased and available in all classrooms, offices and communal areas. The Academy continued to operate a one-way system for movement around the Academy using outdoor routes and also continued to separate year groups at lunch times within the Academy's restaurant. The Academy received additional funding in the year from the ESFA in the form of a Recovery Premium, allocated on a formula basis to all schools by the ESFA and amounting to just over £100,000 for the Academy. This has been allocated to target the loss of learning students received during the period of disruption and has been used to meet the added cost of operating small set sizes of under 20 students across all year groups in Key Stages 3 and 4 within the core subjects of English, Maths and Science to provide more one-to-one and specialist learning for those who were lowest achieving in these subjects. The Trust however does remain concerned over the long-term impact on young people's learning and welcomes the provision of additional funding to help meet the cost of continuing the extended day provision in place at the Academy, which runs from 7.30am to 5.30pm for most of the week (significantly longer than most secondary schools) as well as assisting to meet the costs of additional teachers to enable the provision of some smaller set classes.

Further funding in the year, in the form of a Supplementary Grant (£260,000), which largely went to fund the higher than anticipated salary increases in 2022 for staff was paid during the year and is now subsumed within the main GAG funding allocations from this year. The Academy has also continued to benefit from a separate School-Led Tutoring Grant, although is unable to make full use of this because of its limiting factors on pay levels per hour (which also does not attract any uplift for being Inner London) and despite using this towards Easter revision sessions for Year 11 students; study hall and power hours after school only 36% of the £60,000 available has been able to be used.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Financial report for the year (continued)

The Academy received capital grant allocation of £80,000 from the ESFA in the form of Devolved Formula Capital and Additional Capital Allocation for the purchase of fixed assets during the year. Together with associated expenditure, these are treated as restricted fixed asset funds within the Statement of financial activities (SOFA) when expended. The balance sheet restricted fixed asset fund is reduced by amounts equivalent to any depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The SOFA shows that expenditure for the year was covered by revenue grants, other income and balances brought forward and, after allowing for depreciation, the Trust had a deficit of income over expenditure of £193,000 (2022 - £1,677,000). The Trust's financial position at 31 August 2023 is shown in the attached balance sheet. The Trust has taken exemption from preparing consolidated financial statements under Section 402 of the Companies Act 2006 on the grounds that its subsidiary undertaking is not material for the purpose of giving a true and fair view under section 405 of the Companies Act 2006. A summary of the results of the subsidiary undertaking is given in note 13 of the financial statements.

The underlying financial position of the Trust at a strategic level is such that it intends to continue its current operations in full, utilising funds received in the year and drawing upon existing fund balances where required. Trustees continue to review this position each year.

In line with previous years, as a requirement of Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Trust is required to reflect actuarial gains (losses) within its financial statements. It is unable to reflect this for the Teachers' Pension Scheme as this is a national multi-employer public service pension scheme, where the assets and liabilities attributable to each employer would be impossible to calculate. The Trust is able to reflect this for both the Foundation Pension Plan (FPP), available to the associate staff of the Academy employed before 1 September 2007, and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) to those members of the associate staff who joined on or after 1 September 2007, when access to the LGPS first became available, or those already in post who wished to take up the provision and additionally look into the possible transfer their accrued rights from the FPP. From 1 April 2022, the FPP closed to future accrual, with the then remaining Academy members once again offered the change to join the LGPS. The FPP continues to operate for the benefit of pensioners and for deferred pensioners still to draw their pension entitlement. The volatility in financial markets has brought about increases in long-term interest rates which has improved the funding position of many defined benefit pension schemes. As a result, at the year-end, the balance sheet incorporates a nil pension scheme liability (2022: £nil) in respect of the FPP and a nil pension scheme liability (2022: £nil) in respect of the LGPS.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Financial and risk management objectives and policies (continued)

The financial objective for the Trust is to maintain a positive balance on restricted general funds and to meet the requirements of its reserves policy on unrestricted funds to continue to secure the long-term future of the Academy.

The financial risk management objective is therefore to ensure financial stability. The Trust's exposure to financial risks including credit, cash flow and liquidity, are successfully managed by the principal fiscal management policies, processes and procedures adopted by the Trust.

Further detail of the risk and control framework is provided in the attached Governance Statement.

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserves of the Trust on an annual basis. The review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income and commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves, which are not invested in tangible fixed assets should be sufficient to support the equivalent of three months' expenditure (net of depreciation). This is particularly so as the Academy considers longer term development projects as well as the full continuation of existing operations for which it will also seek grant funding from the ESFA and support from sponsors. The trustees will continue to monitor reserves, mindful of the squeeze in public sector funding that has ongoing implications for schools and the public sector in general.

Tangible fixed assets are all held for use by Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited.

Financial position

The Trust held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £23,554,000 (2022: £23,747,000) comprising £254,000 (2022: £261,000) of restricted general funds, a balance of £19,601,000 (2022: £19,989,000) of restricted fixed asset funds and £3,669,000 (2022: £3,497,000) of unrestricted general funds. The current balance of unrestricted general funds at the year-end more than meets with the trustees' reserves policy that this should be held at the equivalent of three months of the total Academy revenue expenditure.

Investment policy

The trustees have expressed that the investment of reserves be restricted to short-term and secure deposits. The Trust currently uses several interest-bearing reserve accounts alongside current accounts for its grant and non-grant funding. Where it is felt that reserves can be invested for longer, it seeks to invest such funds to secure guaranteed returns. The terms of these deposits typically range from three to twelve months.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The trustees have assessed the major risks and uncertainties to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to recruitment and retention, provision of facilities (including their responsibility to ensure that the Trust's estate is safe, well maintained and complies with relevant regulations), cyber security, global economic uncertainty and future energy prices. Key risks identified also include uncertainties in revenue funding going forward and how this will be impacted in terms of the need for repaying the soaring government debt.

The popularity and success of the Academy along with its recent Ofsted judgment are key positives, but the trustees remain aware that the reputation of the Academy cannot simply rely on historical performance but has to be maintained going forward.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Academy remains confident to maintain student numbers at Key Stages 3 and 4, maximising funding entitlement from the ESFA as identified within its Funding Agreement. This is built upon a strong history of examination success, high quality resourcing and a reputation for ensuring that student learning is free from disruption. The Academy increased its intake numbers from the 2019-20 year to 240 per year, which, having now filtered through to Year 11 will mean an additional 150 students for which the Academy will be receiving added funding in excess of £1,000,000 per annum for these extra students.

This has also been the case when looking to maximise funding potential at sixth form through all students undertaking full time courses. There is fierce competition for recruiting at sixth form and the Academy has placed itself well within this in view of its outstanding results and breadth of provision. The International Baccalaureate (IB) at sixth form is now in its sixteenth year of operation and the Academy is pleased with how this has been integrated as extending the curriculum offer at Key Stage 5 and has become well established. For the 2023-24 academic year, the Academy again has over 250 students, its stated maximum, within its sixth form cohort for the second year running.

It remains a priority to seek to maximise results at all levels for its students and be fully appraised of changes within the exams system along with any changes to the recording of student outcomes. The Academy has welcomed the return to standardised marking in respect of the national exams for students. The Academy looks to implement measures ahead of changes in curriculum and assessment where they occur in order to be as prepared as possible to absorb these in to standard operation. The Academy maintains a well-known reputation for upholding and expecting high standards of student conduct and is unwavering in this. Parents and guardians know what to expect both of their children and of others and the Academy will continue to deliver on this commitment.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (continued)

There are areas of development and focus aside from the curricular that the Academy continues to look to implement for the benefit of all. Utilising funds available to meet the requirements of estate management costs in both capital investment and minor improvement projects enables the Academy to continue to improve the ICT infrastructure and the continuing project to upgrade the lighting provision throughout the Academy such that energy efficiencies are realised. In the summer of 2023, the Academy refurbished the lifts that service each of its three main teaching buildings, with these only having been subject to minor modifications over the past 30 years. With the vastly limited usage of Openview sportsground in the future, the Academy has also commenced upgrading its on-site outside sports areas to improve these facilities for the physical education curriculum at the Academy and for student use generally. One newly laid Astroturf surface was introduced this summer with a further due in the summer of 2024.

Aside from the more substantial works, the Academy continues to place high importance on the day to day appearance of the decor both within and external to the buildings and will continue its priority of allocating appropriate sums from its budget to maintain the high-quality appearance of the Academy. This will also include the eventual replacement of some of the costlier items of plant and machinery, such as the main boilers, although thorough maintenance regimes are such that prolonging the life of such items is maximised. However, the trustees remain mindful that grant income is failing to keep pace with cost escalation and the ability to invest appropriately in both capital and maintenance measures will make this increasingly harder to achieve, nevertheless the trustees will continue to focus on these aspects to ensure the estate is well managed and maintained, complies with relevant regulations and is safe for the school population to operate within.

FUNDRAISING

Under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016, the Trust must include information on any fundraising practices it undertakes.

The Trust does not presently undertake any fundraising activities to supplement its income other than the letting of its sports and other facilities to the public and the sale of Academy uniform to students through its separate trading subsidiary, Prospect Educational and Public Services Limited (see note 13 to the accounts). The subsidiary is also responsible for submitting its own annual report and financial statements. The Trust does see the enhanced potential for letting income through the wider use of Openview sports ground by other users as the Academy restricts its own usage and will closely monitor this over the coming years.

The Academy does undertake occasional fundraising for other charitable causes for which students are asked to donate £1.00 to be able to wear their own clothes on a designated day. A biennial Fun Run also takes place on behalf of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability with whom there has been a long association. Run participants are asked to pay a pound to take part, but are also able to seek additional sponsorship. This event is due to take place again in 2024.

Trustees' report (incorporating a strategic report) Year to 31 August 2023

FIXED ASSETS

Details of changes in fixed assets are given in note 12 to the financial statements.

TAXATION STATUS OF THE TRUST

The Trust being both an exempt charity and an educational establishment is exempt from UK taxation.

AUDITOR

Each of the trustees confirms that:

- ◆ so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Trust's auditor is unaware; and
- ◆ the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Trust's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The auditor, Buzzacott LLP, is willing to continue in office.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 20/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee

S A Harris

Approved by the Board of Trustees on: 20/12/2023

Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited

Company Registration Number: 02484729 (England and Wales)

Scope of responsibility

The trustees acknowledge that they have overall responsibility for ensuring that Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited has effective and appropriate systems of control, both financial and otherwise, through delegated responsibility to the EB and the FRC. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the Funding Agreement between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the trustees and FRC any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that in the trustees' report including composition and any membership changes, and in the statement of trustees' responsibilities. The trustees formally met as a full body once during the year with further trustee attendance as part of committees serving as designated sub committees as below.

The Executive Board (EB) has been established by the trustees to monitor the operation and development of the Academy. Members of the EB other than the Principal, Deputy Principals (DPs) and Vice- Principal, serve up to a three-year term of office subject to re-appointment. The DPs who served on the Board during the year attended when presenting or commenting upon reports in the year, with up to two attending each meeting and are denoted by an asterisk (*) below. The EB met five times during the year as a full body, with some members attending additional meetings of other committees as below. Four of the meetings were held at the Academy with one held virtually and attendance during the year at meetings of the EB was as follows:

Board members	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
R D B Whitcutt (Chair)	5	5
A E Entwistle (Vice-Chair)	5	5
D G Mitchell (Principal)	5	5
T Bothwell	0	3
K Chamberlain	5	5
M Chiara Sechi	3	5
T Chmielewski	5	5
M Collins *	1	1
P Edmondson	3	5
M Gallagher	1	1
P Hall *	1	1
S Harris	5	5
J Hetherington*	2	2
M Hughes	5	5
R Perry	5	5
C Peterson*	3	3
M Smith *	1	1

Governance statement 31 August 2023

Governance (continued)

The trustees have also established a Trustee Remuneration Committee which meets to undertake annual salary reviews for the Principal and Vice-Principal and also sets the financial parameters within which the Academy and the FRC work on reviewing pay levels for all other Academy staff and for agreeing the Pay and Pensions Policy through which such decisions are based.

The Finance and Resources Committee (FRC) has been established by the trustees to specifically monitor finance and staffing matters within the Academy.

The FRC has formally met five times during the year. Four of the meetings were held at the Academy with one held virtually and attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Committee members	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
Dr R D B Whitcutt (Chair)	5	5
A E Entwistle (Trustee and Vice-Chair)	5	5
D G Mitchell (Principal & Accounting Officer)	5	5
T Bothwell	0	3
K Chamberlain	5	5
S Harris (Trustee & Observer)	5	5

None of the members of the EB received any remuneration in respect of their duties as members of either the EB or FRC during the year. No reimbursement of expenses was made to any member during the year (2021 – £nil) in respect of these duties. Dr R D B Whitcutt received £14,092 (2022: £6,937) from unrestricted funds in the year for services undertaken on behalf of the trustees in relation to consultancy and administration services outside of his EB Chairmanship including advice related to the Foundation Pension Plan. The amount provided for within creditors at 31 August 2023 is £5,000 (2022: £14,300).

Conflicts of interest

The Trust has in place, a number of measures to manage conflicts of interest, including maintaining an up-to-date and complete register of interests, which incorporates an annual declaration of business interests by trustees, EB members and senior employees. There is also a standing item on committee agendas that requires declarations of interests for the Trustees AGM and for all EB and FRC meetings as well as pension trustees for the Foundation Pension Plan (FPP). The Trust does not buy in services from any organisation to whom any Trustee, EB member or senior member of staff has any related connection either through themselves or a close family member. The Academy maintains a register of relevant business interests and how the information on this register is used in the day-to-day management and governance of the academy trust. As the subsidiary company to the Trust is wholly owned by the Trust, its directors are connected and are therefore subject to the measures outlined above.

Governance review

The Academy is one of few single academies that operate with a two-tier management structure, with the operational overview delegated by the Board of Trustees, who hold responsibility for the Academy, to the EB (on which both nominated trustees sat five times in the year) and with the shorter-term financial and strategic implementation delegated to the FRC (on which two nominated trustees sat five times in the year - one as an observer). This structure is similar to that in place for multi-academy trusts (MATs). The Academy governance structure is still seen as highly relevant, run on business-like terms and an appropriate model to continue to follow for the foreseeable future. It is kept under review by trustees. Most of the meetings during the year (4 out of 5 for each of the EB and FRC were held on site as opposed to virtually, the levels of attendance at the meetings ensured that full effective oversight of governance requirements was maintained.

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

As such, the Academy sets out below how the Accounting Officer has ensured that the Academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

♦ ***Supporting student attainment***

Ashcroft Technology Academy is an 11-19 Academy committed to 21st Century technology reinforced by traditional values and high expectations. The Academy emphasises the importance of discipline, manners and respect as these qualities reinforce a healthy learning environment whilst also being so important in adult working life and has a staffing establishment that enables and encourages this to happen.

♦ ***Robust governance and oversight of Academy finances***

The trustees and the Academy's FRC are cognisant of their responsibilities in ensuring that the Academy's resources are managed robustly and effectively, to support the objectives set out within the Academy's Strategic Plan, whilst also considering the long-term development of the Academy. The Academy's trustees, EB and FRC members, Senior Leadership Team and staff aim to provide the best possible educational experience for its students and for this to be achieved in the most cost-effective manner.

Review of value for money (continued)

◆ ***Robust governance and oversight of Academy finances (continued)***

The FRC met five times through the year to 31 August 2023. The Committee has clear Terms of Reference and operates as a direct committee of the trustees in the same way as the EB, but with specific responsibility for resourcing matters. The Committee includes trustee representation, the Principal and the Chair of the EB as well as a community/industry representative from the EB. The Vice-Principal reports to the Committee and the Academy's RO attends the meetings in an observer capacity. Members are invited to join the Committee on the basis that they have the appropriate skills and experience. The FRC receives regular budget monitoring reports, provided in a consistent format and with explanatory notes, considers and ratifies policies relating to financial and HR matters, scrutinises the Academy budget forecast, ensures that the Academy complies with agreed policies and procedures, challenges decision makers on spending proposals and reviews tenders for capital works together with outturn expenditure for those projects against original plans and objectives.

The FRC also undertakes a review, receives background information and gives its agreement on staff salaries as part of the annual pay review process for all staff at the Academy other than for the Principal and Vice-Principal. The Committee considers the annual reports and financial statements for the Trust, and is able to make recommendations through the trustees, who have responsibility to approve the core financial statements and documents.

All trustees, EB members and Academy senior staff complete a Register of Business Interests form annually.

◆ ***Efficient use of resources***

The Academy takes a prudent approach to expenditure. As just under 85% of the Academy's total annual income is spent on staffing, the staffing structure is comprehensively reviewed each year to ensure that it is fit for purpose and can adapt and respond to support the successful attainment of the Trust's objectives within its strategic plan. Staffing is seen as the most valuable asset to a student's educational development and attainment and this is reflected in the staffing structure in place at the Academy. It seeks to recruit the best available teaching staff and employs its own associate staff throughout the Academy, including its restaurant staff and its cleaning workforce. The latter have all previously been reviewed, or experienced, against alternative outside contract provision and confirmed to be represent best value for money. Flexible use of human resources demonstrates a commitment to using staffing skills effectively and staff are encouraged to use their particular areas of expertise to benefit student outcomes.

The Academy has a high proportion of skilled and experienced pastoral support staff, who work not only with those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities but also with those who require time away from standard lessons such that their learning can continue in a smaller structured environment in order that the learning of others progresses unhindered. Staff are deployed to provide best value, and all employment contracts are issued with an induction period to ensure that both parties are right for each other.

Review of value for money (continued)

♦ ***Efficient use of resources (continued)***

Staff development is taken seriously, while the Academy sets aside an allocation of its budget for this purpose, although the vast majority of development opportunities are now provided in-house, including breakfast development sessions run once per week for teaching staff with a strong focus on the science of teaching. As vacancies arise, posts are reviewed to assess whether efficiencies can be achieved before a replacement is appointed. Most recruitment to teaching positions occurs from March onwards, although this has been more widespread across the year in the past two years. Staff develop well and make rapid progress within the Academy and as much of this lends itself to the overall success of the Academy, staff are ambitious and are generally ready to progress more quickly than most and when promotion opportunities do not exist within the Academy, they do seek such opportunities elsewhere generating a healthy turnover.

The Academy's Internal Financial Procedures Policy is strictly followed by all staff who have financial responsibilities. This manual sets out arrangements for:

- ♦ The accounting system
- ♦ Financial planning
- ♦ Payroll controls
- ♦ Purchasing
- ♦ Income arrangements
- ♦ Cash management
- ♦ Fixed assets

The policy also sets out responsibilities for individuals, including the Accounting Officer; Vice- Principal; RO; Chair of the FRC and other Academy staff.

All purchasing follows best value principles. A scheme of delegation is in place, as are separation of duties. Purchases of individual items over £5,000 require three written quotations, and contracts and orders over £20,000 are authorised by the FRC through formal tendering procedures. Best value may not always mean the cheapest as other factors such as workmanship, longevity of products and quality of services are considered. Proactive investment is also seen as best practice which may involve replacement or upgrade of fixtures, fittings and equipment as they reach the end of their natural life to maintain the high-quality provision within the Academy without incurring significant and sometimes wasteful repair expenditure. This extends to the effective use of relevant funding to ensure the trust's estate is safe, well-maintained, improved where necessary and complies with regulations.

Review of value for money (continued)

♦ ***Efficient use of resources (continued)***

The Academy continues to operate central purchasing arrangements for areas including educational consumables, books and standardised furnishings throughout its classroom and office environments as well as catering supplies. This enables the Academy to benefit from bulk purchasing and obtaining the most favourable rates with key suppliers as well as the efficiencies gained in staff time on arranging such matters. Employing its own staff across all operations is considered to also bring best value by removing the 'middle man' and allows for the Academy to tailor needs to meet its own unique requirements.

The Academy benchmarks costs against other academies (particularly with regard to salaries for both teaching and associate staff). Such benchmarking is not undertaken on a 'must follow suit' principle as different practices will exist across academies, but such measurements assist in informing local decision making and allows the Academy to compare its operations with others. Benchmarking reports are taken to FRC meetings from time to time, generating healthy debate on comparison matters. The post-audit management report has incorporated reference to benchmarking in recent years too. The FRC also approves complex cost components for major schemes and undertakes post scheme completion reviews comparing initial and outturn costs for any variance analysis.

♦ ***Maximising income generation***

The Academy has a wholly owned subsidiary – Prospect Educational and Public Services Ltd - which generates income through the letting of the Academy's sports and conference facilities. It also sells Academy uniform to students. Letting activity has returned to (and now surpassed) Pre-Covid levels with the majority of the income achieved through its sports lettings both on the main West Hill site and at the Openview sports ground.

The sports facilities at the Openview Sports Ground are well used with both the grassed pitch areas and the all-weather playing surface used by a fixed group of community users whose own requirements fall outside school usage periods which are now taken up increasingly by private school hiring as the Academy utilisation has decreased significantly with more undertake at the West Hill campus post-Covid.

♦ ***Reviewing controls and managing/mitigating risks***

The Academy annually reviews its Risk Register through its trustees who consider the likelihood and impact of key risk exposure and the measures taken to further minimise identified risks along with recording new risks, which the Academy faces. Insurance continues through Zurich Municipal and is both comprehensive and appropriate to the Academy's needs, with premiums driven down in the past year. A Reserves Policy is in place, setting out the wishes of trustees in maintaining the optimum level of unrestricted reserves held by the Academy, with surplus funds invested in safe and secure deposits taken up again as interest rates have made this more viable over the past year.

Review of value for money (continued)

◆ ***Reviewing controls and managing/mitigating risks (continued)***

The trustees and management within the Academy have sought to maintain a balance within the level of revenue funding and its expenditure, such that it is able to maintain and enhance the fabric and equipping of the Academy to the highest possible levels, both from an improved provision and a maintenance of existing estate perspective in addition to the capital investment that the Academy was able to benefit from on conversion and continuing investment since, significantly extending the life of the existing main passenger lifts and renewed sports playing facilities, whilst also ensuring the existing fabric is fit for purpose. All decisions regarding purchasing and service provision continue to be taken with an emphasis on obtaining value for money and improving outcomes for students.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Academy's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place at the Academy throughout the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The trustees have reviewed the key risks to which the Academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The trustees are of the view that there is an effective ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy's significant risks and that these risks have been measured appropriately. This has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is reviewed annually by the trustees.

The risk and control framework

The Academy's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- ◆ comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the FRC and summary information reported to the EB for reference purposes;
- ◆ regular reviews by the FRC of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- ◆ setting targets to measure financial and other performance;

Review of value for money (continued)

- ◆ clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- ◆ delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- ◆ identification and management of risks.

The trustees have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided not to appoint an internal auditor, but have appointed S A Harris FCA, a trustee and a member of the EB, as Responsible Officer ('RO'). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy's financial systems and consideration of the key risks to which the Academy is exposed. The RO has specific assigned responsibilities, including reporting to the trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Academy's financial responsibilities, as well as an observer role at the Academy's FRC meetings of which he was present for all five for the year. In the year, the RO undertook a range of checks on internal practice and procedure where risk can exist, albeit this could only be undertaken remotely. These included month end accounts; budget setting and associated projection forecasts; related party transactions; walk through processes for a major capital project and arrangements surrounding the FPP. The RO work undertaken in the year was presented to trustees at their meeting in November and did not identify any key findings or weakness in internal controls or procedures and no recommendations on improvements were proposed.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question, the review has been informed by:

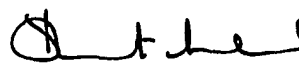
- ◆ the work of the RO;
- ◆ the work of the external auditor;
- ◆ the work of and regular weekly meetings with the Vice-Principal;
- ◆ the work of the Senior Leadership Team within the Academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer would be advised of the result of any review of the systems of internal control by the FRC, RO, external auditor or other independent person and a plan to address any weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system would be put into place.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee
S A Harris



Principal and Accounting Officer
D G Mitchell

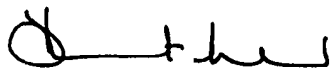
Approved on: 20/12/2023

Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance 31 August 2023

As Accounting Officer for Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust's trustees, the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Trust, including for estates safety and management under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's Funding Agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA.



D G Mitchell
Principal and Accounting Officer

Date:

20/12/2023

Statement of trustees' responsibilities Year to 31 August 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company (the Trust) for the purposes of company law and who are the formal governors of the Trust) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ♦ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ♦ observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS 102 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- ♦ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ♦ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ♦ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation, the Trust applies financial and other controls, which conform to the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Trust's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the trustees on 20/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee
S A Harris

Date: 20/12/2023

Independent auditor's report to the members of Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (the Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the period then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 and Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Conclusions relating to going concern (continued)

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- ◆ the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report including the strategic report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made;

Matters on which we are required to report by exception (continued)

- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they provide a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or taken together, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken based on these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with management, and from our knowledge of the academy trust sector;
- ◆ the identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;
- ◆ we considered the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP FRS 102, the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, and the Academy Trust's funding agreement with the ESFA as well as legislation pertaining to safeguarding in the UK;

Independent auditor's report 31 August 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ we understood how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of the minutes of trustees' meetings and papers provided to the trustees; and
- ◆ we planned and carried out a separate limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reviewing the minutes of trustees' meetings;
- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with Ofsted, ESFA and HMRC; and

Independent auditor's report 31 August 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

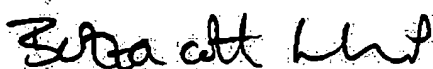
- ♦ the work undertaken in relation to the limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. International Standards on Auditing also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Katharine Patel (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

21 December 2023

Independent accountant's report 31 August 2023

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement process to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited (the Trust) during the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to the Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 20 December 2006 and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, extant from 1 September 2021, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you anything that has come to our attention while carrying out our work which would suggest that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Independent accountant's report 31 August 2023

Approach (continued)

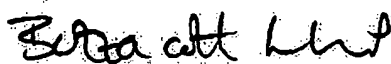
Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- ◆ An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;
- ◆ Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and
- ◆ Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention that suggests that in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities that govern them.



Buzzacott LLP
Chartered Accountants
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

21 December 2023

Statement of financial activities Year ended 31 August 2023
(Including an income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Un- restricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income and expenditure						
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	107	—	80	187	147
Other trading activities	3	293	—	—	293	252
Investments	4	91	—	—	91	2
Charitable activities						
Funding for the Academy's educational operations	5	—	11,354	—	11,354	10,267
Total income		491	11,354	80	11,925	10,668
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
Academy's educational operations		181	11,238	693	12,112	12,345
Total expenditure	6	181	11,238	693	12,112	12,345
Net (expenditure) for the year before transfers						
		310	116	(613)	(187)	(1,677)
Transfers between funds	16	(108)	(117)	225	—	—
Net (expenditure) for the year		202	(1)	(388)	(187)	(1,677)
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gains/ (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	20	—	(6)	—	(6)	5,563
Net movement in funds		202	(7)	(388)	(193)	3,886
Reconciliation of funds						
Balances brought forward at 1 September 2022		3,497	261	19,989	23,747	19,861
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2023		3,699	254	19,601	23,554	23,747

All of the Trust's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	2022 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		19,496		19,884
Current assets					
Debtors	14	699		484	
Current asset investments		2,500		—	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,802		4,088	
		5,001		4,572	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(943)		(709)	
Net current assets			4,058		3,863
Total assets less current liabilities			23,554		23,747
Pension scheme liability	20		—		—
Total net assets			23,554		23,747
The funds of the Trust					
Restricted funds					
Fixed assets fund	16		19,601		19,989
General funds	16		254		261
Pension reserve	16		—		—
Total restricted funds	16		19,855		20,250
Unrestricted funds	16		3,699		3,497
Total funds			23,554		23,747

The financial statements on pages 37 to 63 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 20/12/2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee
S A Harris

Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited
Company Registration Number: 02484729 (England and Wales)

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2023

		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	A	348	(9)
Cash flows (used in)/provided by investing activities	B	(2,634)	16
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(2,286)	7
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022		4,088	4,081
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023	C	1,802	4,088

A Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net (expenditure) for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)	(193)	(1,677)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 12)	693	674
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income (note 2)	(80)	(44)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	—	3
Interest receivable (note 4)	(91)	(2)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 20)	55	702
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 20)	(65)	78
Defined benefit pension scheme admin cost (note 20)	4	4
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(215)	(36)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	234	289
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	348	(9)

B Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	91	2
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	—	15
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(305)	(45)
Transfer to current asset investments	(2,500)	—
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA/LA	80	44
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(2,634)	16

C Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,802	4,088
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,802	4,088

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2023

D Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31 August 2023 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents.	4,088	(2,286)	1,802
Total	4,088	(2,286)	1,802

No separate reconciliation of net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the net cash (debt) of the Trust and the cash and cash equivalents.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

Statement of accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Consolidation

The Trust has taken exemption from preparing consolidated financial statements under Section 402 of the Companies Act 2006 on the grounds that the subsidiary undertaking is not material for the purpose of giving a true and fair view under section 405 of the Companies Act 2006. Summary of the results of the subsidiary undertaking are given in note 13.

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income (continued)

Grants

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

The General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Donated fixed assets

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used.

The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Trust has provided the goods or services.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity.

Charitable activities

These are costs incurred on Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All expenditure is stated net of recoverable VAT.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets acquired since the Trust was established are included in the financial statements at cost. Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets.

Depreciation is charged on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives using the following rates:

- ◆ Leasehold buildings - 2% straight line and across life of lease
- ◆ Furniture and equipment - 20% straight line
- ◆ Computer equipment and software - 25% straight line
- ◆ Motor vehicles - 25% reducing balance

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the Government, Local Authorities or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed assets fund (in the statement of financial activities and carried forward on the balance sheet) and are released to the income and expenditure account on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Financial instruments

The Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Cash at bank and short-term deposits – classified as basic financial instruments and are measured at face value.

Current asset investments – fixed terms deposits with a maturity date between 3-12 months.

Financial instruments (continued)

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Taxation

The Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS'), The Foundation Pension Plan ('FPP') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 20, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The FPP and LGPS are funded schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Principal accounting policies 31 August 2023

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those monies which may be used towards meeting the objectives of the Trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted general funds comprise grants from DfE/ESFA and other donors to be used for specific purposes.

Restricted fixed assets fund comprises funds received towards capital expenditure by way of grants from the Government, Local Authorities and by private donations.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the LGPS and FPP defined benefit liabilities depend on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 for the LGPS and at 31 March 2020 for the FPP has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

1 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the Trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2023 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes.

The Trust has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2023.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000
2023			
Prospect Educational & Public Services Limited (received under Gift Aid) (note 13)	97	—	97
Other donations	10	—	10
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	—	80	80
	<u>107</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>187</u>

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
2022			
Prospect Educational & Public Services Limited (received under Gift Aid) (note 13)	100	—	100
Other donations	3	—	3
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	—	28	28
Donated fixed assets	—	16	16
	<u>103</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>147</u>

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000
2023			
Funding for PGCE students	12	—	12
Academy trips	24	—	24
Catering income	213	—	213
Other	44	—	44
	<u>293</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>293</u>

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
2022			
Funding for PGCE students	17	—	17
Academy trips	9	—	9
Catering income	187	—	187
Other	39	—	39
	<u>252</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>252</u>

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000
2023			
Bank interest receivable	91	—	91
	<u>91</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>91</u>
	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
2022			
Bank interest receivable	2	—	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>

5 Funding for the Academy's educational operations

	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000
2023		
ESFA revenue grants		
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 1)	9,701	9,701
Pupil premium	363	363
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
Others	524	524
	<u>10,588</u>	<u>10,588</u>
Other Government revenue grants		
Funding from Local Authorities	666	666
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)		
Catch-up premium	—	—
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	100	100
	<u>11,354</u>	<u>11,354</u>
	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
2022		
ESFA revenue grants		
General Annual Grant (GAG) (note 1)	8,944	8,944
Pupil premium	344	344
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
Others	271	271
	<u>9,559</u>	<u>9,559</u>
Other Government revenue grants		
Funding from Local Authorities	617	617
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)		
Catch-up premium	51	51
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	40	40
	<u>10,267</u>	<u>10,267</u>

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs (note 9) £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2023 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	
2023				
Academy's educational operations				
. Direct costs	7,661	496	537	8,694
. Support costs (note 7)	1,939	786	693	3,418
	9,600	1,282	1,230	12,112

	Staff costs (note 9) £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2022 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	
2022				
Academy's educational operations				
. Direct costs	7,600	466	442	8,508
. Support costs (note 7)	2,178	869	790	3,837
	9,778	1,335	1,232	12,345

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net expenditure for the year includes:		
Operating leases	16	15
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	—	3
Depreciation	693	674
Fees payable to auditor		
. Statutory audit	16	14
. Other services	3	3

7 Charitable activities - Academy's educational operations

	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Direct costs	8,694	8,508
Support costs	3,418	3,837
	12,112	12,345

	2023 Total funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	1,939	2,178
Depreciation	196	208
Technology costs	108	110
Premises costs	590	661
Other support costs	439	600
Legal costs	130	67
Governance costs	16	13
Total support costs	3,418	3,837

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

8 Comparative information

	Notes	Un-restricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
<i>Income and expenditure</i>					
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations and capital grants	2	103	—	44	147
Other trading activities	3	252	—	—	252
Investments	4	2	—	—	2
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Funding for the Academy's educational operations	5	—	10,267	—	10,267
Total income		357	10,267	44	10,668
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Academy's educational operations		403	11,268	674	12,345
Total expenditure	6	403	11,268	674	12,345
<i>Net (expenditure) for the year before transfers</i>					
		(46)	(1,001)	(630)	(1,677)
<i>Transfers between funds</i>					
	16	—	(1)	1	—
Net (expenditure) for the year		(46)	(1,002)	(629)	(1,677)
<i>Other recognised gains and losses</i>					
Actuarial gains/ (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	20	—	5,563	—	5,563
Net movement in funds		(46)	4,561	(629)	3,886
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Balances brought forward at 1 September 2021		3,543	(4,300)	20,618	19,861
Balances carried forward at 31 August 2022		3,497	261	19,989	23,747

9 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	7,027	6,778
Social security costs	766	745
Pension costs	1,566	2,149
	9,359	9,672
Non-contracted staff	241	100
Staff restructuring costs	—	6
	9,600	9,778

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

9 Staff costs (continued)

a) Staff severance payments

During the year there were no payments made (2022: one payment of £6,041).

b) Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including the senior management team) employed by the charitable company during the year ended 31 August 2023 (on a headcount basis) was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	92	92
Administration, including support and premises	100	102
Management	9	8
	201	202
	2023 FTE	2022 FTE
Teachers	86	87
Administration, including support and premises	69	75
Management	9	8
	164	170

c) Higher paid staff

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 – £70,000	13	12
£70,001 – £80,000	4	1
£80,001 – £90,000	3	4
£120,001 – £130,000	—	1
£130,001 – £140,000	1	—
£140,001 – £150,000	—	1
£150,001 – £160,000	1	—

d) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the trustees, the Executive Board and the senior management team as listed on page 2. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and employer NI contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £1,085,884 (2022: £974,739).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The trustees of the Trust did not receive any payment from the Academy for the services provided in the course of their duties. Similarly, no travel and subsistence expenses were paid during the year (2022 – none) as no trustee claimed for such reimbursement.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees and members of the Executive Board are set out in note 22.

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

11 Trustee and officer insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 (2022: £2,000,000) on any one claim and the cost for 2023 was £117 (2022: £114).

The Trust also insures against any losses of money or goods resulting from fraud or dishonesty by employees or trustees. The insurance provides cover up to £250,000 (2022: £250,000) and the cost for 2023 was £131 (2022: £129).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold buildings £'000	Furniture and equipment £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	30,781	49	301	52	31,183
Additions	108	131	66	—	305
Disposals	—	(9)	(77)	—	(86)
At 31 August 2023	30,889	171	290	52	31,402
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2022	11,037	16	198	48	11,299
Charge for year	580	40	73	—	693
Disposals	—	(9)	(77)	—	(86)
At 31 August 2023	11,617	47	194	48	11,906
Net book values					
At 31 August 2023	19,272	124	96	4	19,496
At 31 August 2022	19,744	33	103	4	19,884

All fixed assets are used for the Trust's educational operations.

The title to the leasehold site at 100 West Hill, London SW15 2UT is registered in the name of the Trust but has not been included in these financial statements because the site is designated for educational purposes only and has no open market value. The Trust holds a long lease for Openview Sports Ground. Again, this has not been included in these financial statements as the ground is deemed to be Metropolitan Open Land and its designated use is restricted to school playing fields and private sports ground only.

13 Investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Investment in subsidiary undertaking at cost		
· £1 ordinary shares	2	2

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

13 Investments (continued)

The investment is in a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking, Prospect Educational and Public Services Limited, a Company incorporated in England. The principal activities of the subsidiary are to provide private lettings to the public, as well as the sale of uniform to Academy students. A summary of the results for the year and the position at the year-end of Prospect Educational and Public Services Limited is shown below:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Turnover	296	253
Cost of sales	(70)	(73)
Gross profit	226	180
Other expenditure	(129)	(80)
Profit on ordinary activities	97	100
Donation to the Trust	(97)	(100)
Retained reserves	—	—
Balance at 1 September 2022	1	1
Balance at 31 August 2023	1	1
Net assets of the subsidiary	1	1

The auditor's report on the financial statements of Prospect Educational and Public Services Limited for the year ended 31 August 2023 was unqualified.

14 Debtors

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Grants receivable	61	59
VAT recoverable	142	53
Amount due from subsidiary undertaking	260	211
Pension control account	4	4
Sundry debtors	160	50
Prepayments	72	107
	699	484

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	64	25
Taxation and social security	225	219
ESFA creditor:		
- capital grants repayable	186	186
- revenue grants repayable	39	34
Accruals and deferred income	381	176
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertaking	28	31
Other creditors	20	38
	943	709

Creditors above include the following deferred income balance:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	18	21
Resources deferred in the year	24	18
Amounts released from previous years	(18)	(21)
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	24	18

Deferred income represents monies collected for trips and catering for the 2022-23 financial year.

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

16 Funds

	At 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	At 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
· General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	9,701	(9,534)	(117)	50
· Pupil Premium	133	363	(371)	—	125
· Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	—	100	(100)	—	—
· Other ESFA grants	63	524	(524)	—	63
· Other grants (LA)	45	666	(710)	—	1
· Donations	20	—	(5)	—	15
· Pension reserve	—	—	6	(6)	—
	<u>261</u>	<u>11,354</u>	<u>(11,238)</u>	<u>(123)</u>	<u>254</u>
Restricted fixed assets funds					
· ESFA capital grants	12,297	80	(426)	—	11,951
· Capital expenditure from GAG	5,213	—	(181)	117	5,149
· Capital expenditure from unrestricted reserves	383	—	(13)	108	478
· Private sector capital sponsorship	2,096	—	(73)	—	2,023
	<u>19,989</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>(693)</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>19,601</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>20,250</u>	<u>11,434</u>	<u>(11,931)</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>19,855</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	3,497	491	(181)	(108)	3,699
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,497</u>	<u>491</u>	<u>(181)</u>	<u>(108)</u>	<u>3,699</u>
Total funds	<u>23,747</u>	<u>11,925</u>	<u>(12,112)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>23,554</u>

General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023. See note 1.

Pupil Premium

This relates to income received from the ESFA to support disadvantaged children from low-income families.

Other ESFA revenue grants

This primarily includes previous funding allocations for Leading Edge, Leadership Incentive Grant and Year 7 Literacy & Numeracy, which will be utilised in future years.

Donations

This relates to music scholarships sponsored by Young and Co.'s Brewery.

Pension reserve

The pension reserve relates to the deficit on the Academy Trust's share of the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Foundation Pension Plan as at 31 August 2023.

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

16 Funds (continued)

Other grants (Local Authority)

These are grants receivable from the London Borough of Wandsworth for specific purposes or projects.

Restricted fixed assets funds

The restricted fixed assets funds detail the funding sources for expenditure on tangible fixed assets. Recurrent fund sourcing reflects the utilisation of revenue grant from the ESFA towards capital purchasing, while the unrestricted fund has a similar application using the Trust's own reserves.

Comparative information

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	At 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	167	8,944	(9,110)	(1)	—
Pupil Premium	179	344	(390)	—	133
Catch-up premium	—	51	(51)	—	—
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	—	40	(40)	—	—
Other ESFA grants	63	271	(271)	—	63
Other grants (LA)	54	617	(626)	—	45
Donations	20	—	—	—	20
Pension reserve	(4,783)	—	(780)	5,563	—
	<u>(4,300)</u>	<u>10,268</u>	<u>(11,267)</u>	<u>5,562</u>	<u>261</u>
Restricted fixed assets funds					
ESFA capital grants	12,667	44	(414)	—	12,297
Capital expenditure from GAG	5,388	—	(176)	1	5,213
Capital expenditure from unrestricted reserves	396	—	(13)	—	383
Private sector capital sponsorship	2,167	—	(71)	—	2,096
	<u>20,618</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>(674)</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>19,989</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>16,318</u>	<u>10,311</u>	<u>(11,942)</u>	<u>5,563</u>	<u>20,250</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	3,543	357	(403)	—	3,497
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,543</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>(403)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>3,497</u>
Total funds	<u>19,861</u>	<u>10,668</u>	<u>(12,345)</u>	<u>5,563</u>	<u>23,747</u>

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets fund £'000	2023 Total £'000
2023				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	19,496	19,496
Current assets	3,699	1,197	105	5,001
Current liabilities	—	(943)	—	(943)
	3,699	254	19,601	23,554
	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed assets fund £'000	2022 Total £'000
2022				
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	19,884	19,884
Current assets	3,497	970	105	4,572
Current liabilities	—	(709)	—	(709)
Pension scheme liability	—	—	—	—
	3,497	261	19,989	23,747

18 Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2023, the total of the Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	15	16
Amounts due between two and five years inclusive	29	32
	44	47

19 Contingent liabilities

In the event, during the period of the Funding Agreement, of the sale or disposal by other means, of any asset for which a capital grant was received, the company shall if it does not reinvest the proceeds, repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the company serving notice, the company shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- The value at that time of the Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the company; and
- The extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

20 Pensions commitments

Reconciliation of the combined opening and closing balances of the fair value of the Trust's share of the schemes' net scheme liabilities for the FPP and LGPS.

	2023			2022		
	FPP £'000	LGPS £'000	Total £'000	FPP £'000	LGPS £'000	Total £'000
Opening value of scheme net assets/(liabilities)	785	552	1,337	(628)	(4,155)	(4,783)
Current service costs	—	(481)	(481)	(12)	(1,106)	(1,118)
Contributions by employer	61	362	426	72	344	416
	61	(119)	(55)	60	(762)	(702)
Other finance charge	34	31	65	(9)	(65)	(74)
Administrative expense	—	(4)	(4)	—	(4)	(4)
Actuarial gains (losses)	455	699	1,154	577	4,986	5,563
Closing value of scheme net liabilities	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Trust's employees belong to three principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by London Borough of Wandsworth, and the Foundation Pension Plan (FPP), an old scheme which is closed to new members. All three are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. Prior to 31 August 2023, the latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2016 and the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2022. A further valuation of the TPS scheme, relating to the period ended 31 March 2020 was published in October 2023. For the FPP, the latest actuarial valuation related to the period ended 31 March 2020.

Pension costs comprise:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Contributions to TPS	1,088	1,031
Contribution to LGPS	362	344
Contribution to FPP	61	72
	1,511	1,447
FRS 102 pension costs	55	702
	1,566	2,149

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

20 Pensions commitments (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme (continued)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The Academy Trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the Academy Trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The Academy Trust has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the Academy Trust in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The actuarial review of the TPS which applied during the year ended 31 August 2023 was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (DfE) in April 2019. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £198 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £22 billion.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from 1 September 2019 (16.48% to 31 August 2019). As in 2021-22, the DfE again agreed to pay a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs from the 2022-23 academic year in respect of sixth form provision.

The latest actuarial TPS valuation results, as at 31 March 2020, were released in October 2023. The valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024, from this date employer contribution rates will increase to 28.68% (including a 0.08% administration levy).

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,088,000 (2022: £1,031,000).

The Foundation Pension Plan (FPP)

Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited as principal employer, operates a defined benefit pension plan in the UK for the employees of the Trust and one other employer. A full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2021 and updated to 31 August 2023 by a qualified independent actuary, allowing for the actuarial method and assumptions prescribed under Financial Reporting Standard 102.

20 Pensions commitments (continued)

The Foundation Pension Plan (FPP) (continued)

Contributions to the Plan were paid by the members at a rate dependent upon earnings, in line with that for the LGPS as at 1 April 2013 prior to it becoming a career average revalued earnings (CARE) scheme. With effect from 1 April 2022, the Plan closed to future accrual and so no employee contributions continued to be paid. With effect from 1 July 2022 the employer also makes an additional payment of £61,000 per annum in order to eliminate the funding deficit for the Plan as determined at the last valuation, over a seven-year period ending 30 June 2028. With effect from 1 September 2007, the FPP had been closed to new members whilst continuing for its existing membership until April 2022.

In the year 2022/23 the fund remains in surplus, for accounting purposes this is capped at £nil within the financial statements

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	2023	2022
Discount rate	5.4%	4.2%
CPI Inflation	2.9%	3.1%
Rate of increase in salaries	2.9%	3.1%
Post Retirement Mortality	S3PxA CMI 2022 with a long term 1.25% p.a. improvement	S3PxA CMI 2021 with a long term 1.25% p.a. improvement
Cash commutation	80% of maximum tax free cash	80% of maximum tax free cash

For the avoidance of doubt the above assumptions are in absolute terms.

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	2023 years	2022 years
Life expectancy male aged 65 now	21.4	21.4
Life expectancy male aged 65 in 20 years	23.9	23.9
Life expectancy female aged 65 now	22.6	22.6
Life expectancy female aged 65 in 20 years	25.3	25.3

The Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme and the expected rates of return were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equities	3,148	3,442
Corporate bonds	1,819	1,847
Insured pensioners	72	83
Cash and other liquid assets	179	77
Total market value of assets	5,218	5,449

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

20 Pension commitments (continued)

The Foundation Pension Plan (FPP) (continued)

The following figures, which relate to employees and former employees of Prospect Education (Technology) Trust Limited, the current principal employer, have been prepared in compliance Section 28 of FRS 102.

Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	(61)	(60)
Interest income	(228)	(99)
Interest cost	194	108
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	95	51

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme liabilities at 1 September 2022	5,452	6,817
Current service cost	—	12
Interest cost	194	108
Employee contributions	—	3
Actuarial loss (gain)	(247)	(1,393)
Benefits paid	(178)	(95)
Scheme liabilities at 31 August 2023	5,221	5,452

Movement in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of scheme assets at 1 September 2022	5,452	6,189
Expected return on assets	228	99
Actuarial (gain) loss	(342)	(816)
Contributions by employer	61	72
Contributions by scheme participants	—	3
Estimated benefits paid	(178)	(95)
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August 2023	5,221	5,452

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £486,000 (2022: £463,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £363,000 (2022: £344,000) and employees' contributions totalled £123,000 (2022: £119,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20% for employers and between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the DfE. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on the GOV.UK website.

In the year 2022/23 the fund is a surplus, for accounting purposes this is capped at £nil within the financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

20 Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
Principal actuarial assumptions		
Rate of increase in salaries	3.9%	3.9%
Rate of increase for pensions	2.9%	2.9%
Discount rate for liabilities	5.3%	4.3%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 as:

	2023 years	2022 years
Longevity at ages 65 for current pensioners		
. Men	20.7	21.0
. Women	23.2	23.5
Longevity at ages 65 for future pensioners		
. Men	22.0	22.3
. Women	24.6	24.9

	At 31 August 2023 £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Sensitivity analysis – net movement in obligation		
Discount rate +0.1%	(315)	(163)
Discount rate -0.1%	338	167
Mortality assumption – 1-year increase	338	192
Mortality assumption – 1-year decrease	(315)	(187)
CPI rate +0.1%	337	160
CPI rate -0.1%	(315)	(155)

The Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme and the expected rates of return were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2023 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000
Equities	4,057	4,770
Gilts	—	79
Corporate bonds	1,129	570
Property	977	908
Cash and other liquid assets	272	(26)
Multi asset fund	752	426
Total market value of assets	7,187	6,727

Notes to the financial statements 31 August 2023

20 Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

None of the fair values of the assets shown above include any of the Trust's own financial instruments or any property occupied by, or other assets used by, the Trust. The equity investments and bonds which are held in scheme assets are quoted and are valued at the current bid price.

Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Service cost	481	1,106
Net interest on defined liability/(asset)	(31)	65
Admin expenses	4	4
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	454	1,175

The actuarial gains and losses for the current period are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme liabilities at 1 September 2022	6,727	11,033
Current service cost	481	1,106
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	803	740
Interest cost	263	182
Contributions by scheme participants	123	119
Actuarial (gains)/ losses	(1,095)	(6,368)
Estimated benefits paid	(115)	(85)
Scheme liabilities at 31 August 2023	7,187	6,727

Movement in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of scheme assets at 1 September 2022	6,727	6,878
Expected return on Scheme assets	294	117
Actuarial (loss)/gain	(203)	(642)
Contributions by employer	365	344
Contributions by Scheme participants	123	119
Estimated benefits paid	(115)	(85)
Administrative expenses	(4)	(4)
Fair value of scheme assets at 31 August 2023	7,187	6,727

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2023 is £363,000.

21 Liability of members

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Trust does not have a share capital. Every member of the Trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Trust in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, by such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees and that of the Executive Board and Finance and Resources Committee being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the relevant Board may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The Trust has a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking, Prospect Educational and Public Services Limited. Donations from the subsidiary are outlined in note 13 of the financial statements and amounts owed from/to the subsidiary as at 31 August 2022 are disclosed in notes 14 and 15 respectively.

Dr R D B Whitcutt is a member of the Trust and a member of the Executive Board. The Trust received invoices in the year of £14,092 (2022: £6,937) for services rendered by Dr R D B Whitcutt from unrestricted funds in relation to consultancy and financial administration services, including advice related to the Foundation Pension Plan. The amount payable and included within creditors at 31 August 2023 is £5,000 (2022: £14,300). This arrangement pre-dates the requirement for related party transactions to be undertaken at cost, however, the Trust has taken reasonable steps to ensure that value for money is obtained.

23 Agency arrangements

The Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the year ended 31 August 2023 the Trust received £12,544 (2022: £19,388) and disbursed £10,780 (2022: £25,199) from the fund. The balance at the year-end of £2,776 (2022: £2,231) was carried forward at the year-end for use in future years.